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LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of my Government I have to appeal to you once more concerning the critical situation, which has been created in Georgia due to the military actions in one of its regions, in Abkhazia.

As a result of war in the region, the economic situation of the Republic of Georgia has reached its critical level, hundreds thousands of homeless refugees have faced a lot of different problems and still there is no evident sign of the improvement of their situation.

My people highly appreciates the support provided by a number of States and international institutions, as well as your personal assistance. Nevertheless, we should admit that these efforts are not sufficient.

We stress the fact that after ethnic cleansing of local population, the situation in areas of Abkhazia left by refugees remains under a strict control of illegal non-guided formations. The cases connected with violent occupation of apartments and local residential buildings, burnings are still taking place in the area, as it is noted in the report, directed to you by the Fact-finding Mission for investigation of facts of human rights violations in Abkhazia, the Republic of Georgia (S/26795).

This situation can create a serious basis for not-controlled actions of approximately 300,000 refugees and displaced persons who have escaped executions, torture and humiliation. We can become the witnesses to the new tragic consequences of the conflict if the World Community does not react and adopt a number of extraordinary measures.

The peaceful efforts of the United Nations clearly expressed by the decisions of the Security Council, as well as the agreements reached by the parties in Geneva have a chance to be nullified.

The leadership of the Republic of Georgia realizes the fact that the deployment of Peace-keeping Forces in the zone of conflict is closely connected with the solution of serious problems, at the same time, it is also obvious, that this is the only possible way to reach the stability in the region and create a real ground for overwhelming political settlement of the conflict, including the determination of the political status of Abkhazia.

The Georgian leadership has been proving many times its readiness to settle the conflict by political means, following the previous agreements, but the latest events have confirmed the fact that all kinds of agreements cannot be activated and have a positive influence without a real contribution of the World Community.

Take into account these circumstances and facing a real danger of a new wave of violence in the area, the Government of Georgia calls the World Community to assist in deployment of a full-scale Peace-keeping Operation throughout the whole territory of the Abkhazian region by the United Nations forces or other units authorized by the United Nations if this problem is not solved in the nearest time. As you are aware, this approach is fixed in the text of the Communiqué of the Second round of negotiations held in Geneva.

We strongly believe that only this step will ensure the fulfilment of the decision pointed in the Communiqué concerning the restoration of law and order in the region, disarmament and withdrawal of various formations, provision of humanitarian aid, returning of refugees in order to carry out the main task - political settlement of the conflict and status of Abkhazia.

Referring to the provisions of the Communiqué and also taking into consideration the understanding of this request by the Russian leadership, its direct interest to prevent the escalation of the conflict out of the territory of Georgia and finally stabilize the situation in the whole region, the Georgian leadership welcomes the readiness of Russia to take part in the Peace-keeping Operation in Abkhazia with this regard. The Russian peace-keeping units can be further strengthened by the forces from other States with the participation of the United Nations military observers according to the decision of the Security Council. We consider that it is also important "to deploy appropriate civilian experts who will assist in resolving the problems of refugees and other humanitarian issues" (Communiqué on the Second round of negotiations between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in Geneva).

The proposal connected with the Russian peace-keeping involvement in the region has been pointed out in the joint letter addressed to you by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Russia and Georgia dated 7 September 1993. But due to some reasons we have not received a reply on it. Despite some deviation from usual way and procedure of the United Nations peace-keeping operations, we believe, that the realization of this approach could prevent the recent tragic events, including the death of peaceful citizens, tremendous number of refugees and displaced persons, destruction of cities and villages and other violations.

The leadership of the Republic of Georgia welcomes the steps taken by the Secretary-General to establish a special voluntary fund whose resources will be provided for assistance to the victims of the conflict and for restoration of infrastructure and vital life support systems as well as for financial support of peace-keeping activities of the military forces involved in the operation.

The leadership of the Republic of Georgia strongly believes that you, Your Excellency and the Security Council will consider the ideas and proposals contained in this letter with an understanding and expresses once more a deep gratitude and appreciation of the people of Georgia for the humanitarian

assistance as well as for the efforts directed to the restoration of justice and peace on Georgian land.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Peter CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary